

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/536,535

Examiner

Aaron M. Dunwoody

Applicant(s)

CHRISTENSEN ET AL.

Art Unit

3679

- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to amendment filed 8/12/2009.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1,3-12,14-23.
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: ____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date ____.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date ____.
- Identifying Indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date ____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date 20091218
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☐ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other ____.

/Aaron M Dunwoody/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 3679

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Heidi A. Dare on 12/18/2009.

The application has been amended as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS

Claim 1, (Currently Amended) A connecting piece for a medical tubing, said connecting piece comprising a first unit and a second unit,

said first unit comprising a first connecting element for a tubing element and a second connecting element for the second unit, said second connecting element comprising a tubular female part for engagement with the second unit and first sealing elements,

said second unit comprising a tubular male part having a tubular portion fitting inside and surrounded by a portion of said tubular female part, and having a collar including a continuously extending delimiting edge defining a face on said male part, a connecting line between any two points along said delimiting edge in a peripheral direction of the male part being less than 90° in relation to an axial extension of said male part and said female part, said tubular portion of said male part having second sealing elements for cooperating with the first sealing elements,

said first unit and second unit comprising respective separator elements, the first sealing elements and the second sealing elements configured for being mutually lockingly engageable by moving the male part and the female part axially towards each other, said mutual locking engagement establishing a lock, by which the first unit and the second unit are kept together with said tubular portion of said male part extending inside said female part;

the separator elements comprising a face arranged on the female part and a face arranged on the male part, said faces being in abutment against each other when the first unit and the second unit are kept together by said lock, said faces being such that by a turning of the first unit in relation to the second unit an axially extending positive force component is provided for by said face on said male part riding on said face on said female part, said positive force component forcing the ~~sealing elements~~ first and second units to disengage and to leave their mutual engagement by axial displacement ~~of said first and said second unit from each other~~; and

the separator elements being arranged in relation to said sealing elements such that said separator elements are at an axial distance from said lock when the first unit and the second unit are kept together by said lock.

Claim 14, (Currently Amended) A device for leak-proof connection of medical tubing, said device comprising a first unit and a second unit;

said first unit comprising:

a connecting portion that is connectable to a first medical tube,

a tubular female portion defining an axial direction of said device and having a through-going passage, said tubular female portion comprising first sealing elements arranged within said through-going passage, and

at least one first face disposed along a periphery of said first unit, said second unit comprising:

a connecting portion that is connectable to a second medical tube, a tubular male portion comprising second sealing elements, said tubular male portion being receivable inside said through-going passage of said tubular female portion, and

at least one second face disposed along a periphery of said second unit, said first and second sealing elements are lockable together to form a leak-proof engagement when said tubular male portion is received inside said through-going passage of said tubular female portion, said first and second sealing element engagement locking said tubular male portion against withdrawal from said tubular female portion,

said at least one first face is movable along said at least one second face from said engagement and said tubular male portion being twistable relative to said tubular female portion to provide a force in said axial direction for driving said first unit away from said second unit to disengage said first ~~sealing elements~~ unit from said second unit sealing elements,

said at least one first face is axially spaced apart from said first sealing elements and said at least one second face is axially spaced apart from said second sealing elements.

Claim 19, (Currently Amended) A device for leak-proof connection of medical tubing, said device comprising a first unit releasably connected to a second unit;

said first unit comprising:

a connecting portion that is connectable to a first medical tube,
a tubular female portion defining an axial direction of said device and
having a through-going passage, and

at least one first face disposed along a periphery of said first unit,

said second unit comprising:

a connecting portion that is connectable to a second medical tube,
a tubular male portion, and
at least one second face disposed along a periphery of said second unit,
said tubular male portion being received inside said through-going passage of
said tubular female portion,

said tubular female portion comprising first sealing elements arranged within said
through-going passage, and

said tubular male portion comprising second sealing elements,

said first and second sealing elements being in leak-proof engagement with each other and releasably locking said tubular male portion against withdrawal from said tubular female portion,

said at least one first face is movable along said at least one second face when said tubular female portion is twisted relative to said tubular male portion, to provide a force in said axial direction for driving said second unit away from said first unit to disengage said second unit ~~sealing elements~~ from said first unit ~~sealing elements~~,

said at least one first face is axially spaced apart from said first sealing elements and said at least one second face is axially spaced apart from said second sealing elements.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Aaron M. Dunwoody whose telephone number is 571-272-7080. The examiner can normally be reached on 7:30 am - 4:00 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Daniel P. Stodola can be reached on 571-272-7087. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Aaron M Dunwoody/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 3679

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